

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Desousa, et al.

Serial No. : 09/341,196 (U.S. National Stage of
International Application No. PCT/SE99/00749)

Examiner : To Be Assigned

Filed : July 6, 1999

Group Art Unit : To Be Assigned

For : NEW ASSAY

FEB 15 2000

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

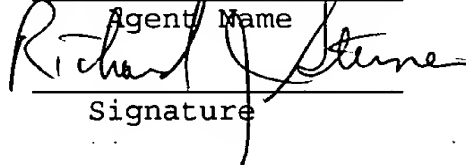
I hereby certify that this paper is being
deposited with the United States Postal
Service as first class mail in an envelope
addressed to : The Assistant Commissioner
for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on
December 21, 1999.

Richard J. Sterner

Agent Name

35,372

PTO Reg. No.



Signature

December 21, 1999

Date of Signature

BOX PCT

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

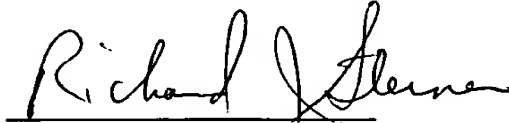
In compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with 37
C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the five (5)
references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record
in this application. Copies of the references are enclosed.

These references were cited in the International Search
Report. A copy of the Report is also enclosed for the Examiner's
information.

No fee should be due in connection with this communication, as it is submitted prior to the expiration of the applicable time limit under PCT Articles 22 and 39(1) according to the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §371(b). However, should it be determined that a fee is required for any reason, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge it to Deposit Account No. 23-1703.

Dated: December 21, 1999

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard J. Sterner", is written over a horizontal line.

Richard J. Sterner
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Enclosures